

PATENT

Atty. Dkt. No. ATT 1999-0177

REMARKS

In view of the following discussion, the Applicant submits that none of the claims now pending in the application is made obvious under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 103. Thus, the Applicant believes that all of these claims are now in allowable form.

I. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-2, AND 8-12 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-2, and 8-12 in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Hemmady et al. (US Patent 5,438,565).

Claims 1-2, and 8-12 have been canceled without prejudice. The rejection is now moot. However, Applicant reserves the rights to file one or more continuation applications to continue prosecution of these canceled claims.

II. ALLOWED CLAIMS AND ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner has allowed claims 6-7 and the Examiner has objected to claims 3-5 for depending upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant has amended claims 3-5 into independent claim form. Applicant submits that claims 3-5 are now in allowable form.

Conclusion

Thus, the Applicant submits that all of these claims now fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §103. Consequently, the Applicant believes that all these claims are presently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issue are earnestly solicited.

If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring the maintenance of the present final action in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Mr. Kin-Wah Tong, Esq. at

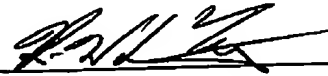
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(732) 530-9404 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

9/18/04



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